

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1816
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

**CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE IN COMPLIANCE OF UNSECO's
GUIDELINES**

†1816. SHRI RAVI KISHAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any plan for conservation of cultural heritage in compliance of the guidelines of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO);
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the amount of funds sanctioned for the said conservation, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has identified any sites for heritage conservation and financing;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the Indian heritage site at global level?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN
REGION

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

- (a) Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) nominates the properties on the World Heritage & List as per the criteria laid out in the UNESCO's Operational Guidelines, 2021. Every
- (b) property inscribed on the World Heritage list exhibits the Outstanding Universal Value. As of now India has 40 properties including 24 cultural heritage on the World Heritage List. Further details are enclosed at **Annexure-A**. The details of the amount of funds sanctioned for the conservation of ASI World Heritage Sites are enclosed at **Annexure-B**.
- (c) ASI takes up the conservation works of the protected monuments as per requirement &
- (d) and available resources.

- (e) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India promotes India as a holistic destination in the tourism generating markets to promote various Indian tourism products and tourism destination including monuments of the country to increase India's share of the global tourism market. The above objectives are met through an integrated marketing and promotional strategy, and a synergized campaign in association with the Travel Trade, State Governments and Indian Mission abroad. In order to boost visitor arrival, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has declared "Incredible India! Visit India Year 2023".

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1816 FOR 13.02.2023.

PLAN FOR CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN COMPLIANCE OF UNESCO'S GUIDELINES

Outstanding universal Value (OUV)

The Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value if the property meets one or more out of ten criteria. There are (i) to (vi) criteria for cultural property and (vii) to (x) for natural property.

Authenticity

The value attributed to the heritage depends on the degree to which information sources about this value may be understood as credible or truthful. Depending on the type of cultural heritage, and its cultural context, properties may be understood to meet the conditions of authenticity if their cultural values (as recognized in the nomination criteria proposed) are truthfully and credibly expressed through a variety of attributes including: • form and design; • materials and substance; • use and function; • traditions, techniques and management systems; • location and setting; • language, and other forms of intangible heritage; • spirit and feeling; and • other internal and external factors.

Integrity

Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes.

- a) includes all elements necessary to express its Outstanding Universal Value;
- b) is of adequate size to ensure the complete representation of the features and processes which convey the property's significance;
- c) suffers from adverse effects of development and/or neglect.

Management Plan

An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal. Impact assessments for proposed interventions are essential for all World Heritage properties.

Effective management involves a cycle of short, medium and long-term actions to protect, conserve and present the nominated property. An integrated approach to planning and management is essential to guide the evolution of properties over time and to ensure maintenance of all aspects of their Outstanding Universal Value.

Protection, conservation and management of World Heritage properties

Protection and management of World Heritage properties should ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription, are sustained or enhanced over time. A regular review of the general state of conservation of properties, and thus also their Outstanding Universal Value, shall be done within a framework of monitoring processes for World Heritage properties.

All properties inscribed on the World Heritage List must have adequate long-term legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional protection and management to ensure their safeguarding. This protection should include adequately delineated boundaries. Similarly States Parties should demonstrate adequate protection at the national, regional, municipal, and/or traditional level for the nominated property. They should append appropriate texts to the nomination with a clear explanation of the way this protection operates to protect the nominated property.

Legislative and regulatory measures at national and local levels should assure the protection of the property from social, economic and other pressures or changes that might negatively impact the Outstanding Universal Value, including the integrity and/or authenticity of the property. States Parties should also assure the full and effective implementation of such measures.

An effective management system depends on the type, characteristics and needs of the nominated property and its cultural and natural context. Management systems may vary according to different cultural perspectives, the resources available and other factors. They may incorporate traditional practices, existing urban or regional planning instruments, and other planning control mechanisms, both formal and informal. Impact assessments for proposed interventions are essential for all World Heritage properties.

Effective management involves a cycle of short, medium and long-term actions to protect, conserve and present the nominated property. An integrated approach to planning and management is essential

to guide the evolution of properties over time and to ensure maintenance of all aspects of their Outstanding Universal Value. This approach goes beyond the property to include any buffer zone(s), as well as the wider setting. The wider setting may relate to the property's topography, natural and built environment, and other elements such as infrastructure, land use patterns, spatial organization, and visual relationships. It may also include related social and cultural practices, economic processes and other intangible dimensions of heritage such as perceptions and associations. Management of the wider setting is related to its role in supporting the Outstanding Universal Value. Its effective management may also contribute to sustainable development, through harnessing the reciprocal benefits for heritage and society.

All dimensions of sustainable development should apply to natural, cultural and mixed properties in their diversity. These dimensions are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, with none having predominance over another and each being equally necessary. States Parties should therefore review and reinforce governance frameworks within management systems of World Heritage properties in order to achieve the appropriate balance, integration and harmonization between the protection of OUV and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives. This will include the full respect and participation of all stakeholders and rights holders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, the setting up of effective inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and provisions for the systematic assessment of environmental, social, and economic impacts of all proposed developments, as well as effective monitoring through continuity in data collection against agreed indicators.

The World Heritage Committee requests States Parties to implement best practice fire management strategies to ensure the protection and management of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) including, where appropriate, to:

- a) Prepare site-level fire vulnerability and risk assessments, mitigation, Risk Preparedness, response and recovery plans in the event of potential severe fire impacts on heritage values,
- b) Incorporate fire research, monitoring of impact, emergency response and mitigation and preparedness measures into management decisions,
- c) Work with stakeholders to raise awareness on fire risks among communities and build greater capacity to respond and recover following fires,
- d) Consider customised approaches and strategies that reflect the characteristics and circumstances of naturally and anthropogenically generated fires,

- e) Explore the potential of new technologies for application in fire managing strategies, including monitoring, and firefighting systems, that will not have negative impact on OUV of the properties,
- f) Take strong actions to address human-induced climate change in line with global United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) commitments.

The five objectives of the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disaster at World Heritage Properties are the following:

- a) Strengthen support within relevant global, regional, national and local institutions for reducing risks at World Heritage properties;
- b) Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of disaster prevention at World Heritage properties;
- c) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks at World Heritage properties;
- d) Reduce underlying risk factors at World Heritage properties;
- e) Strengthen disaster risk preparedness at World Heritage properties for effective response at all levels.

In the face of increasing disaster risks and the impact of climate change, States Parties should recognise that World Heritage represents both an asset to be protected and a resource to strengthen the ability of communities and their properties to resist, absorb, and recover from the effects of a hazard. In line with disaster risks and climate change multilateral agreements, States Parties should:

- i. Recognise and promote – within conservation and management strategies – the inherent potential of World Heritage properties for reducing disaster risks and adapting to climate change, through associated ecosystem services, traditional knowledge and practices and strengthened social cohesion.
- ii. Reduce the vulnerability of World Heritage properties and their settings as well as promote the social and economic resilience of local and associated communities to disaster and climate change through structural and non-structural measures, including public awareness-raising, training and education. Structural measures, in particular, should not adversely affect the OUV of World Heritage properties;
- iii. Enhance preparedness for effective response and ‘building-back-better’ in post-disaster recovery strategies within management systems and conservation practice for World Heritage properties.

Factors affecting properties

Conservation of the urban heritage should be integrated into general policy planning and practices and those related to the broader urban context. Policies should provide mechanisms for balancing conservation and sustainability in the short and long terms. Special emphasis should be

placed on the harmonious, integration of contemporary interventions into the historic urban fabric. In particular, the responsibilities of the different stakeholders are the following:

- (a) Member States should integrate urban heritage conservation strategies into national development policies and agendas according to the historic urban landscape approach. Within this framework, local authorities should prepare urban development plans taking into account the area's values, including the landscape and other heritage values, and features associated therewith;
- (b) Public and private stakeholders should cooperate, inter alia, through partnerships to ensure the successful application of the historic urban landscape approach;
- (c) International organizations dealing with sustainable development processes should integrate the historic urban landscape approach into their strategies, plans and operations;
- (d) National and international non-governmental organizations should participate in developing and disseminating tools and best practices for the implementation of the historic urban landscape approach.

Climate change and severe weather events

The potential impacts of Climate Change range from physical, to social and cultural aspects. Experience and lessons learned on addressing Climate Change impacts stress the need for using a number of management responses at national and local levels. The *World Heritage Convention* provides an opportunity to develop strategies to implement relevant actions in respect of cultural and natural heritage properties threatened by Climate Change. Given the complexity of this issue, States Parties may request guidance from the World Heritage Committee to implement appropriate management responses to face the threats posed by Climate Change on their natural and cultural properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Conservation is the management of change, and Climate Change is one of the most significant global challenges facing society and the environment today. The actions that need to be taken to safeguard heritage are threefold:

- Preventive actions: monitoring, reporting and mitigation of Climate Change effects through environmentally sound choices and decisions at a range of levels: individual, community, institutional and corporate.
- Corrective actions: adaptation to the reality of Climate Change through global and regional strategies and local management plans.
- Sharing knowledge: including best practices, research, communication, public and political support, education and training, capacity building, networking, etc.

Tourism and visitor management

World Heritage properties are important travel destinations that, if managed properly, have great potential for inclusive local economic development, sustainability and strengthening social resilience. Sustainable forms of tourism development, including community-based initiatives, should be accompanied by inclusive and equitable economic investment to ensure benefit sharing in and around World Heritage properties.

**LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SURVEY OF INDIA**

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the Heritage site
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra-Fort
		Taj Mahal
		Fatehpur Sikri
2.	Maharashtra	Ajanta Caves
		Ellora Caves
		Elephanta Caves
3.	Karnataka	Group of Monuments at Hampi
		Group of Monuments at Pattadakal
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Khajuraho, Group of Monuments
		Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi
		Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka
5.	Odisha	Sun Temple, Konark
6.	Tamil Nadu	Great Living Chola Temples
		Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram
7.	Delhi (NCT)	Humayun's Tomb
		Qutb Minar and its Monuments
		Red Fort Complex
8.	Goa	Churches and Convents of Goa
9.	Rajasthan	Hill Forts of Rajasthan
10.	Telangana	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple
11.	Bihar	Archeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara
12.	Gujarat	Chapmaner-Pavagadh Archeological Park
		Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen's Stepwell)
		Dholavira: A Harappan City

Annexure B

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION
NO. 1816 FOR 13.02.2023**

**DETAILS OF ALLOCATION FOR CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF WORLD
HERITAGE SITES FOR CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR**

(Amount Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of State	Name of the Heritage site	Allocation
1.	Uttar Pradesh	Agra-Fort	20.00
		Taj Mahal	
		Fatehpur Sikri	
2.	Maharashtra	Ajanta Caves	32.50
		Ellora Caves	
		Elephanta Caves	
3.	Karnataka	Group of Monuments at Hampi	18.50
		Group of Monuments at Pattadakal	
4.	Madhya Pradesh	Khajuraho, Group of Monuments	19.50
		Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi	
		Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka	
5.	Odisha	Sun Temple, Konark	13.00
6.	Tamil Nadu	Great Living Chola Temples	18.00
		Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram	
7.	Delhi (NCT)	Humayun's Tomb	30.00
		Qutb Minar and its Monuments	
		Red Fort Complex	
8.	Goa	Churches and Convents of Goa	9.00
9.	Rajasthan	Hill Forts of Rajasthan	15.00
10.	Telangana	Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple	15.00
11.	Bihar	Archeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara	6.50

12.	Gujarat	Chapmaner-Pavagadh Archeological Park	15.00
		Rani-ki-Vav (The Queen’s Stepwell)	
		Dholavira: A Harappan City	
		Total	212.00